



**Town Clerk's Office**  
**PO BOX 660**  
**333 Calef Highway**  
**Barrington, NH 03825**  
**(603)664-5476**

On Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at the Town Election, a resident requested to have their ballots hand counted instead of placing his cast ballots into the Accuvote machine. The resident expressed a lack of confidence in the accuracy of the machine. After an explanation by the Town Clerk regarding how each machine is tested before each election and the accuracy of those tests, the resident insisted to have their ballots hand counted. In consultation with the Moderator, the resident's ballots were placed into the side slot of the ballot box to be hand counted at the end of the night.

After the election, the resident notified the Town that they did not believe that their votes had been hand counted. The resident reviewed the results which separately tabulated hand count votes and noticed unanimous vote totals which were inconsistent with how this resident had voted.

The Town Administrator, Town Clerk, and Moderator immediately began an investigation in order to address the identified concern. The investigation included interviews with each Election Official involved in the process. In conclusion, it was determined that the resident's ballots were mis-filed with the write-in ballots instead of the hand count ballots. This error occurred because the resident's ballots included a write-in candidate. As a result, only the write-in votes were counted, and all other votes were not included in the vote totals reported at the end of the night.

The Moderator has informed the resident about the results of the Town's investigation. The Town takes mistakes such as these very seriously and although no malintent was identified, the Town must take active steps to prevent similar errors from occurring in the future.

At this time, the Town Clerk is finalizing updated procedures in an effort to remedy the situation. These changes are intended to improve and safeguard the handling of cancelled and special hand count ballots.

1. Keep ballots separated by labeling the locked sections on the side of the black ballot counting boxes as follows:
  - a. Cancelled Ballots
  - b. Hand Count Ballots
2. At the end of the night **ONLY** the Town Clerk or a designee of the Town Clerk will remove the ballots from those locked sections.
3. After removing the ballots, a confirmation sheet will be signed and dated by a witness and the Town Clerk or a designee of the Town Clerk.